1992 in 3 families in Doldola village, details of are given below:

1. *Family of Bisu Khosla*

(i) Kumari Khosla 16 years daughter of Bisu Khosla.

(ii) Benu Khosla 6 years grandson of Bisu Khosla.

(ii) Mina Khosla 35 years son of Bisu Khosla.

(iv) Pati Khosla 2 years grand daughter of Bisu Khosla

(v) Bisu Khosla 58 years.

2. *Family of Kamili Saunta*

(i) Trinath Saunta 9 years son of Kamili Saunta.

(ii) Sambaru Saunta 5 years son of Kamili Saunta

3. *Family of Dasuru Jani*

(i) Liu Jani 35 years son of Dasuru Jani.

The enquiry revealed that these deaths were due to food poisoning.

The bereaved families have been provided with financial assistance amounting to Rs. 32,000. Free Kitchens have been started and the normal feeding programme under the ICDS has been continuing. Employment intensive works are also being planned. The harvest of Kharif crop and resumption of labour intensive works will provide further relief in the area.

Increase in Fertilizer Prices

1825. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far the increase in fertiliser prices, by way of decontrol of Phosphorous and pottassium fertilisers and 10 per cent withdrawal of subsidy on Urea, has been off-set by way of increase in support prices of Kharif crops produce; and

(b) the percentage of profit assured to the farmers thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The minimum support prices (MSP) of Kharif crops for 1992-93, although not affected by increase in fertiliser prices, have been substantially increased as compared to the last year. The increase in MSP per quintal is Rs. 40 for paddy, Rs. 35 for millets, Rs. 95 for pulses, Rs. 105 for groundnut, Rs. 80 for soyabeen, Rs. 130 for sunflower and Rs. 105-110 for cotton.

(b) The minimum support prices announced by the Government not only cover the cost of production but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity.

Short-Fall in Production of Foodgrains

1826. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a fall in foodgrain production due to diversion of land to more lucrative crops; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to ensure that foodgrain production does not go down to a low level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

(a) No, Sir. There is no fall in foodgrain production in the country, as rate of growth of production of foodgrains during 1980-81 to 1990-91 was observed as 3.15% per annum, despite negative growth in area under foodgrains as (—) 0.14% per annum during the same period.

(b) Besides price and market support, the Government is implementing various programmes like Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP); Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD); National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) etc. including Mini-Kit Programme under these schemes, for increasing the production of foodgrains in the country.